

REMARKS

Applicant has amended the above-identified application responsive to the Office Action dated November 2, 2004 in the above-referenced application.

Applicant has amended the specification and drawings per the Examiner's comments on pages 2 and 3, paragraphs 1 and 2. Specifically, Applicant encloses herewith corrected drawing sheet 1 of 2, Fig. 1, and which illustrates decorative covering 23 associated with exterior facing surface 22 of shell 16 and which is disclosed on page 7, lines 1-4 of the description. Approval of the proposed drawing revision is respectfully requested.

The specification and, specifically, the claims have been further amended to both overcome the indefiniteness and enablement issues set forth on pages 3-4, paragraphs 3-6. In particular, the 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph rejection (see page 3, paragraph 6 of the Examiner's remarks) has been responded to by amending each of the claims, and in particular independent claims 1 and 14-17, each of which now specifically recite that the interengaging portions established between the opposing surfaces of the shell and structural component and which compensate for misalignments existing therebetween due to tolerancing variances associated with a selected outer facing surface of the structural component and an opposing and inner facing surface of the outer shell.

Reference in particular is made to page 8, line 7, et seq., and by which the suitable dimensional misalignment tolerancing is referenced between the selected outer facing and three-dimensional surface 26 of the structural component 24 and an opposing and inner facing surface 28 of the outer shell 16. When viewed in cooperation with Figs. 2 and 3 of the drawings, it is clear as to how the interengaging portions 30/34 and 23/36 are capable of facilitating (or

compensating as now worded in the claims) misalignments which inevitably occur between the outer shell and inner structural component.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's position that Applicant has not disclosed any margin for relative movement of the shell and structural component as the sections of the shell and structural component that surround these portions are interlocked without play. Rather, and as stated again on page 8, line 5, et seq. of the detailed description, the expanded foam (structural) components typically exhibit a dimensional tolerancing of at least plus or minus one (1) percent in size, resulting in a suitable dimensional misalignment tolerancing established between the outer facing and three-dimensional surface 26 of the structural component 24 and the opposing and inner facing surface 28 of the outer shell 16.

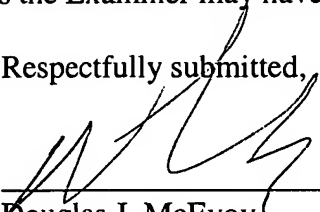
As such, and considering a typical misalignment in the range of 1-2 percent established between the overall dimensions of the structural component and outer shell, it is understood that the necessary dimensional misalignment/compensating tolerancing is not readily evident from viewing alone the drawings, and in particular the side illustration of Fig. 2. However, taken in cooperation with the written description, it is understood that the disclosure adequately supports the teaching of the necessary misalignment compensation, such not being described or supported by any of the prior art cited references, and such further adequately supporting and defining the present invention. It is further submitted that the prior art door constructions do not provide for adequate misalignment compensation, even on the order of a 1-2 percent relative offset, without significantly decrease to the structural integrity and/or increasing the built-in stresses to a door construction resulting in the inability of its geometry to absorb such tolerancing offsets.

Addressing the cited references, and in particular the Blomeling Patent No. 6,619,724, it is submitted that no dimensional compensation, even on the order of 1-2 percent, is disclosed or

supported for facilitating misalignments occurring between the cladding part 4 and opposing insulation element 5. Similarly, none of the secondary cited references, in particular Grimes 5,040,335, Kurosaki, Welch, or Steinmann disclose or suggest any type of dimensional compensation (even on the order of 1-2 percent of overall dimension).

Accordingly, it is submitted that remaining claims 1-4 and 8-18 are now in appropriate form for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Attorney for Applicant may be contacted at (248) 647-6000 with any questions the Examiner may have.

Respectfully submitted,



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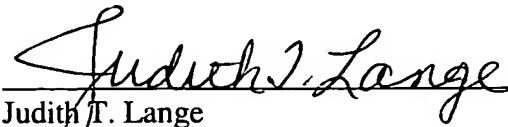
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Judith T. Lange

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicant encloses herewith corrected drawing sheet 1 of 2, Fig. 1, and which illustrates decorative covering 23 associated with exterior facing surface 22 of shell 16 and which is disclosed on page 7, lines 1-4 of the description. Approval of the proposed drawing revision is respectfully requested.